

An Analysis of the Logic of Hebrews 9:15-28

Thesis

8:13 Jesus serves as high priest in the heavenly holy places

Inference

9:15a **Therefore:** Jesus mediator of the New Covenant

Result

9:15b **That:** He has redeemed those 'called' under the first covenant, who may now receive their promised inheritance.

Explanation

9:16 **For:** A death has occurred as required by custom and by law.

Conclusion

9:18 **Thus:** the first covenant was concluded with bloody sacrifices.

Inference

9:23 **Therefore:** Messiah has purified the heavenly things with better sacrifices.

Explanation

9:24 **For:** Christ has appeared once in the presence of God on our behalf, bearing a sin-offering for many.

9:27 **And:** When he emerges from that second tent, he will be seen by those who eagerly await him.

Interpretation

The imagery derives from Numbers chapter 4, where, under provisions of the first covenant, various groups and individuals, having become aware of their past sins, present a sacrificial sin-offering, the blood of which, their high priest carries into the first tent, the Holy Place, where he sprinkles it on the horns of the altar of incense, thereby securing forgiveness.

Under provisions of the New Covenant, Christ, as high priest, bearing the blood his sin-offering made for many, has entered into the heavenly Most Holy Place, where he has appeared before God on our behalf, thereby securing the forgiveness of all of our sins. Meanwhile, we many who remain outside of the Holy Places, eagerly wait to see him emerge from that second tent, bringing us news of salvation from sin and death.